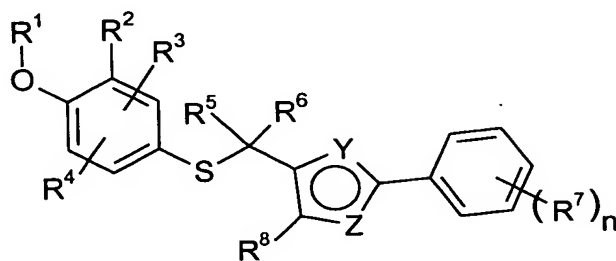


In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein,

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of H, -Si(R⁹)₃, -C(R¹⁰R¹⁰)C(O)₂H, benzyl, allyl, and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₃alkyl, -OCH₃, -CF₃, allyl, and halogen;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, phenyl, benzyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, and allyl;

each R⁷ is independently -CF₃, C₁₋₃alkyl, -OCH₃, or halogen;

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of H, -CF₃, and C₁₋₆alkyl;

one of Y and Z is N and the other is S or O;

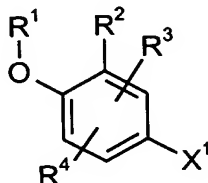
each R⁹ is independently C₁₋₆alkyl, or arylC₁₋₆alkyl, or two R⁹ groups together with the silicon atom to which they are attached form a 5-7 membered ring;

each R¹⁰ is independently H or C₁₋₃alkyl, or both R¹⁰ groups together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 3-6 membered ring; and

n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5;

said method comprising the steps of:

a) treating of a compound of formula (I) with an alkyl lithium reagent, magnesium (0), or magnesium (0) followed by treating with a dihalo zinc (II) reagent,



(I)

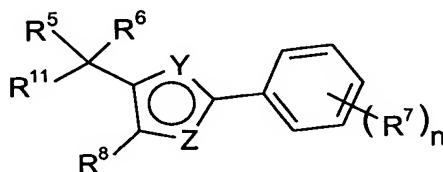
wherein,

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are as defined above; and

X^1 is selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, and I;

b) followed by treating with sulfur; and

c) followed by treating with a compound of formula (III),



(III)

wherein,

R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , Y, Z, and n are as defined above;

R^{11} is Cl, Br, I, or $-\text{OS}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^{12}$; and

R^{12} is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, $\text{C}_{6-10}\text{arylC}_{1-6}$ alkyl, and $-\text{CF}_3$.

Claim 2. (original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein said process is performed without isolation of intermediate compounds between steps (a) and (b) or (b) and (c).

Claim 3. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein R^1 is $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^9)_3$.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein R^1 is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{-Bu}$.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein R^1 is $-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{10})\text{C}(\text{O})_2\text{H}$.

Claim 6. (original) A process according to Claim 5, wherein R^{10} is $-\text{CH}_3$.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein R^{11} is Cl or $-\text{OS}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^{12}$, and R^{12} is $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein:

R^1 is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{-Bu}$;

R^2 is $-\text{CH}_3$;

R^3 and R^4 are H;

R^5 and R^6 are H;

n is 2;

one R^7 is fluorine in the *ortho* position and the other is $-\text{CF}_3$ is the *para* position;

R^8 is $-\text{CH}_3$;

Y is S; and

Z is N.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 1 or~~ Claim 2, wherein:

R^1 is $-\text{C}(\text{R}^{10}\text{R}^{10})\text{C}(\text{O})_2\text{H}$;

R^2 is $-\text{CH}_3$;

R^3 and R^4 are H;

R⁵ and R⁶ are H;

n is 2;

one R⁷ is fluorine in the *ortho* position and the other is -CF₃ is the *para* position;

R⁸ is -CH₃;

Y is S;

Z is N; and

each R¹⁰ is -CH₃.

Claim 10. (original) A process according to Claim 8, said process further comprising the step cleaving the R¹ silyl group, to afford a compound of formula (IV), wherein R¹ is -H.

Claim 11. (original) A process according to Claim 8, said process further comprising the steps of:

d) cleaving the R¹ silyl group to afford a compound of formula (IV), wherein R¹ is -H; and

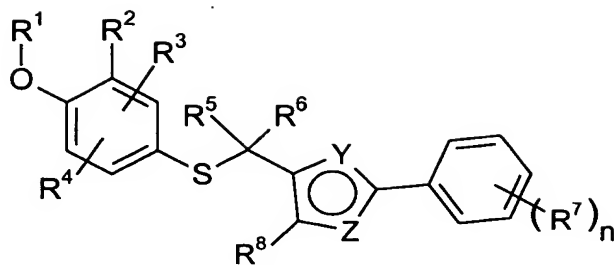
e) treating with an alkylating agent to afford a compound of formula (IV), wherein R¹ is -C(R¹⁰R¹⁰)C(O)₂H, and R¹⁰ is -CH₃.

Claim 12. (original) A process according to Claim 8, said process further comprising the steps of

d) cleaving the R¹ silyl group to afford a compound of formula (IV), wherein R¹ is -H ; and

e) treating with 1,1,1-trichloro-2-methylpropan-2-ol, to afford a compound of formula (IV), wherein R¹ is -C(R¹⁰R¹⁰)C(O)₂H, and R¹⁰ is -CH₃.

Claim 13. (original) A compound of formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein:

R¹ is -Si(R⁹)₃;

R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₃alkyl, -OCH₃, -CF₃, allyl, and halogen;

R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, phenyl, benzyl, C₁₋₆alkyl, and allyl;

each R⁷ is independently selected from -CF₃, C₁₋₃alkyl, -OCH₃, or halogen;

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of H, -CF₃, and C₁₋₆alkyl;

one of Y and Z is N and the other is S or O;

each R⁹ is independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, or two R⁹ groups together with the silicon atom to which they are attached form a 5-7 membered ring; and

n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

Claim 14. (original) A compound according to Claim 13, wherein:

R¹ is -Si(R⁹)₃;

R² is -CH₃;

R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are hydrogen;

n is 2;

one R^7 is F in the *ortho* position and the other is $-CF_3$ in the *para* position;

R^8 is $-CH_3$;

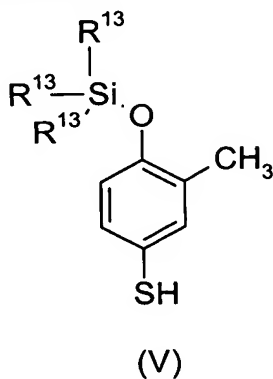
R^9 is C_{1-6} alkyl;

Y is S; and

Z is N.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~either one of Claims 13 and Claim 14,~~
wherein R^1 is $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_2t\text{-Bu}$.

Claim 16. (original) A compound of formula (V),

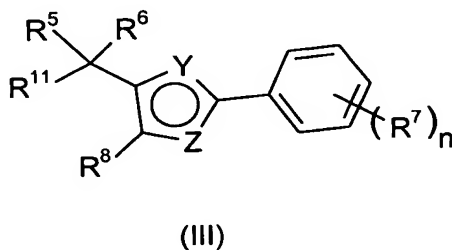


wherein:

R^{13} is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-14} aryl, or C_{6-14} aryl C_{1-6} alkyl.

Claim 17. (original) A compound according to Claim 16, wherein two R^{13} are $-CH_3$ and the other is $t\text{-Bu}$.

Claim 18. (currently amended) ~~In another aspect of the invention is featured a~~ A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (III),



wherein:

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, phenyl, benzyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, and allyl;

each R^7 is independently selected from $-CF_3$, C_{1-3} alkyl, $-OCH_3$, or halogen;

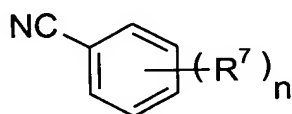
R^8 is H, $-CF_3$, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

one of Y and Z is N and the other is S or O;

R^{11} is $-OH$; and

$n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \text{ or } 5$;

said process comprising the step of treating a compound of formula (XVII) with thioacetic acid,



(XVII)

wherein:

each R^7 is independently selected from $-CF_3$, C_{1-3} alkyl, $-OCH_3$, or halogen; and

$n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, \text{ or } 5$.

Claim 19. (original) A process according to Claim 18, wherein said process further comprises the step of treating with an α -halo- α -ketoester.

Claim 20. (original) A process according to Claim 19, wherein said process further comprises the step of treating with a reducing agent.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of Claims 18-20~~ Claim 20, wherein R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen, n is 2, one R^7 is fluorine and the other is $-CF_3$, R^8 is C_{1-6} alkyl, Y is S, Z is N, and R^{11} is $-OH$.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A process according to ~~any one of Claims 18-21~~ Claim 21, wherein one R⁷ is fluorine in the *ortho* position and the other is -CF₃ in the *para* position, and R⁸ is -CH₃.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A process according to ~~either one of Claims 18-20~~ Claim 20, wherein the compound of formula (III) is {2-[2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-methyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl}methanol.

Claim 24 is deleted.